

**Families.** The phenomenon known as the "echo boom" refers to the children of post-World War II "baby boomers." The continuing growth in this generation also presents a challenge. Along with immigrant children, the echo boom is increasing the need for pre-school and school facilities and eventually to some extent the need for juvenile and adult correction facilities and programs. The "echo boomers" are beginning to reach their middle and late teen years. A Sheriff's office study predicted a 10% increase in people ages 15-19 in the year 2000, with an increase of 61% expected by the year 2010. Statistics show most crimes are committed by young males between 15 and 30 years of age. Aside from the "echo boom," the overall population of the County will continue to rise in the next decade. If the rate of criminal activity of people within a particular age group remains the same, the actual number of crimes will rise as the overall population of that group rises. With the looming "echo boom" and general population growth, staff increases may be needed throughout the criminal justice system - District Attorney, Probation, and the Public Defender included. Some growth in the juvenile system has already been experienced. The Public Defender's juvenile caseload increased 4.8% from Fiscal Year 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, and is projected to increase 5.4% again in Fiscal Year 2001-2002. This increase reflects what the "echo boom" population projections had predicted.



The County's 2001 Homeless Needs Assessment indicates that there are over 19,000 homeless people in Orange County and 14,000 of those are homeless families with children. Statistics also indicate that approximately 65% of the homeless in Orange County are working in lower paying service sector jobs, and as a result, are unable to afford the high cost of housing.

To more effectively deal with this growing problem, the Board of Supervisors directed County agencies to work in partnership with nonprofit organizations, cities, businesses, federal and state agencies, and other groups to develop a service delivery system that better responds to the needs of the region's homeless. This system is known as a Continuum of Care.

Recognizing that homelessness is a regional issue, last year Orange County's 34 cities and County agencies committed over \$30 million in "mainstream" funds to meet the needs of the region's homeless. While programs are available to shelter and serve the homeless, significant gaps still exist in the County's Continuum of Care System.

**Health Services.** On November 7, 2000, Proposition 36, The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act, which provides drug treatment instead of incarceration for certain nonviolent drug offenders, was passed in the State of California. Based on current referrals, over 5,000 adults annually will be eligible for treatment services. This number is higher than was originally estimated. The average number of adults, excluding Proposition 36, waiting to enter residential treatment is 60, and the length of time on the waiting list is 20 days. Since there are limited General Purpose Revenues available, plans are underway to form a public-private partnership to develop residential treatment programs to serve up to 80 adult men and women.

In 1998, the major tobacco companies in the United States signed an agreement that settled out-of-court, outstanding litigation bought by the attorney generals of 46 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. Territories. The Master Settlement Agreement provides for numerous restrictions and prohibitions, including bans on the use of cartoons in cigarette advertisements, youth exposure to sampling and the use of most outdoor advertisements, and included a cash settlement, Tobacco Settlement Revenues (TSR), to the litigants. Under the terms of the settlement, it is estimated that Orange County will receive \$650.6 million by 2021.

Measure "H," a local ballot initiative that took effect on July 1, 2001, restricts the use of TSR as follows: 80% for healthcare and 20% for public safety. The healthcare share is further restricted to certain categories and must supplement, not replace existing funding for those categories.



The Children and Families Commission of Orange County was created as a result of Proposition 10, The California Children and Families Act of 1998. The Proposition added a 50-cent sales tax on tobacco products sold in the State and requires that the funds raised be used to support education, health and childcare programs that promote healthy, early childhood development from the prenatal stage to age five. The nine-member Commission is responsible for overseeing the allocation of approximately \$50 million in tobacco tax revenues received annually for use in Orange County.